

prophylaxis against "turista" is to eat only what is peeled or cooked, and to drink only boiled water, beverages that have been boiled, beer or wine. Tap water, used in brushing the teeth and for ice in drinks, can be a source of infection. The prophylactic use of antimicrobial drugs to prevent diarrhea is of questionable value.

On culture, if the finding is pure *E. coli* in the presence of diarrhea, this is strong presumptive evidence of infection with EPEC. In most adults with EPEC diarrhea, including "turista," the only judicious therapy is: diphenoxylate hydrochloride with atropine sulfate (Lomotil®) 2.5 to 5 mg every six hours but, if the diarrhea is associated with fever and especially severe, with myalgia and profuse cramps, therapy with two grams of ampicillin daily in divided doses may result in a cure in three days. Treatment should start with ampicillin, administered intramuscularly, until the antibiotic sensitivity test is returned. In-hospital pediatric epidemics which at times cause lethal diarrhea may be aborted by therapy with antibiotics to which EPEC are sensitive.

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DuPont HL, Formal SB, Hornick RB, et al: Pathogenesis of *Escherichia coli* diarrhea. *N Engl J Med* 285:1-9, Jul 1971

Hemophilus Vaginitis— A Venereal Disease

HEMOPHILUS VAGINALIS has been estimated to be the causative agent in 6 to 52 percent of vaginitis cases, and incidence of this condition seems to be increasing. Diagnosis requires (1) a high index of suspicion, (2) evidence of excess bacteria in a wet smear and (3) vaginal epithelial cells that look semi-opaque with a Sedi® stain or Gram stain, which are referred to as "clue cells." Small Gram-negative bacilli associated with epithelial cells, rather than with leukocytes are noted. Oral contraceptives and intra-uterine devices do not influence the incidence of *Hemophilus* vaginitis. Sulfa vaginal creams and suppositories used for three weeks result in a 50 percent cure of this problem. However, the author has found that a course of ampicillin 500 mg four times daily for five days has been a much more effective therapeutic agent. Men who have been infected with *Hemophilus* have also been successfully treated with this method.

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